

April 3, 1984

LB 457

resist the temptation of the special interest group, and to tell them that we have been generous in 457 with all the other benefits that are in there but that this one is just too much to swallow, that if we are not going to do it for our own employees, then we are not going to do it for them either, and that they can take the \$3.2 million that is left in 457 and be pleased with what they have accomplished. I move the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, then Senator Morehead.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, M. Speaker, members, I, too, support the Landis amendment, Landis-Beutler amendment, to strike the early retirement benefits. I have spoken on this floor several times and at our Legislative Council meetings and told you early retirement is a concept that has to be very carefully considered, one that we shouldn't pursue if we are not sure we want to pursue it, and I don't think we are ready to pursue it at this time with LB 457. Now I am the main sponsor of LB 457. I did bring to you on General File the amendment which brought to you the early retirement provisions as well as the pre-1968 retirement benefit improvements. I did that because I wanted you to have a full package from the educational establishments so that you could see what they wanted to have. Now what the educational lobbyists want, what those educational institutions and the associations want is fine for them but I don't know that it is fine for the rest of the state. We have to make our own decisions. Within this Chamber on this side of those glass doors, we decide what is best for a million and a half people in this state, and when we make that decision, it affects all of us throughout the state and it is something we have to take very seriously, and so when you look at the concept of early retirement, you have to realize even though it is wanted, it is pursued, it is desired, it is bad policy, and the problem I have is as Retirement Chairman the next time they come back in from some other group and want to have early retirement, what is my response going to have to be? If the precedent is set with this early retirement provision for school teachers, where do you draw the line? You can't. Once it is provided for one group, you have to provide it for all. If you look